(b) and (c) The main recommendations of the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority for the National Capital Region include phasing out of leaded petrol, introduction of petrol with 1% benzene maximum, introduction of fuel (petrol as well as diesel) with 0.05% sulphur content maximum, sale of only pre-mixed 2-T Oil in petrol stations, ban on plying of buses more than eight years old except on clean fuels, conversion of city bus fleet to single fuel mode on Compressed Natural gas (CNG), increase of CNG supply outlets, construction of common effluent treatment plants. The Authority exercised its powers under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 in monitoring and implementing its recommendations for protecting and improving the quality of the environment. The Government have taken steps to implement the recommendations of the Authority.

Ban on Sale of Crackers

1378. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to impose a ban on the sale of crackers, to check the ill effects of fireworks on human health and environment in the country every year;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Government have not imposed any ban on the sale and manufacture of fire-crackers. However, the noise levels of fire-crackers shall not exceed the standards notified vide G.S.R. 682(E), dated October 5, 1999 and the Department of Explosives has been asked to monitor the compliance.

Menace of leopards in Uttaranchal and H.P.

1379. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that leopards have created menace in Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh by killing many people and also getting themselves killed due to lack of jungles;

(b) if so, the number of people killed by leopards and the leopards killed during the last two years; and

(c) the steps being taken to protect the lives of people and the leopards?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Instances of depredation by leopards and the leopards being killed to prevent such depredation are reported from time to time. The details of human deaths caused by leopards and number of leopards killed to safeguard the human killings are at Statement (*See* below).

(c) The steps taken to prevent human leopard conflicts include:

1. Improvement of habitat and prey base in the Protected Areas and the buffer zones through various Centrally Sponsored Schemes including Project Tiger, Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries and Eco-development in and around Protected Areas.
2. Funds are also provided to the State Governments for purchase of communication equipments and vehicles for the field staff to reduce response time in cases of attack on human beings by wild animals.
3. Wildlife Institute of India organises courses on tranquilisation and translocation of wild animals for the field managers.
4. To mitigate the anger amongst kith and kin of a person killed by wild animal, that often leads to retaliatory killing, the Central Government has issued guidelines for ex-gratia payment of Rs. 1 lakh. The amount so paid is reimbursed under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

Statement

Details of human deaths caused by leopards killed alongwith the number of leopards killed to safeguard the human killings

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Period	Human causalities		Man eater leopards	
			Killed	Injured	Declared	Killed
1.	Uttaranchal	Nov-Dec. 2000	5	8	Nil	Nil
2.	Uttaranchal	2001	27	43	12	2 (killed) 1 (Caged)
3.	*Himachal Pradesh	2000	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
4.	*Himachal Pradesh	2001	3	Nil	Nil	Nil

* During the last two years, 12 leopards have been trapped and killed in retaliatory action by the people in the vicinity of villages.